

THE SPIRIT

SJC BROOKLYN

OCTOBER 2016

WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR

BY ALESSANDRA LANNO

The fall semester brought us back to the routine of overcrowded subway stations, time-constraining schedules, and 8 AM coffee runs to make it through morning classes. Over the summer, most of us shared one concern: will SJC's student population grow? Last year was worrisome. What happened to the college spirit we had seen in school events? Or the participation and eager attempts to be part of a community? Did we forget what it meant to have our voices heard? To be seen?

As we settle into the academic year of 2016-2017, the campus seems to be buzzing with new first-year students. The cafeteria is a bit louder and crowded, with newbies hurrying to class with an ID dangling around their neck. According to the admissions office, SJC received 1,901 freshmen applications prior to the fall semester, as compared to 1,636 during the last academic year. The result was a 27% increase of freshmen acceptance, along with a 44% increase in transfer students.

Christine Murphy, vice president for enrollment management, explains the recruitment process that led to the large Class of 2020. According to Murphy, SJC admissions counselors "participated in over 300 off-campus recruitment events and about 30 on campus recruitment during the 2015-2016 recruitment season, including large and small scale college fairs, personalized high school visits and on-site admissions events, open houses and information sessions."

Along with recruitment events, Murphy says her team also reached

out to the NY State Association of College Admissions Counseling and the NYC Department of Education. Their goal was to bring more attention to SJC and to show that, although small, SJC is a college that can suit many students' lifestyles and interests.

As the newcomers settle in, Murphy hopes that they become actively engaged in the school community. "I hope this year's new class will embrace the college's motto *Esse non Videri* ('To be, not to seem') in all that they do in the classroom, on the campus, on the court or field, and in their personal lives. We selected each for admission because we believe they will contribute to and thrive in the SJC Brooklyn community."

There is also a generally positive feeling among existing students about the incoming freshmen. Melanie Salamat, a junior and co-representative of the dance club, shared her thoughts on the newcomers' avid participation. "I think the freshmen we have are naturally curious and are much more willing to explore hobbies when placed in a new environment," she says. Club leaders generally see "freshmen as eager" to interact with other students. "I see them a bunch around the cafeteria during common hour. I'm trying to recruit them to the fraternity and get involved even more," says John Hickey, a co-leader of the fraternity.

Perhaps this is the change in student body behavior that SJC has hoped for. As the year continues, we can look forward to seeing our sense of community grow.

WHAT'S INSIDE MCENTEGART LIBRARY

BY ARIANNA CARDINALE

The McEntegart Library is the one of the main places on the Brooklyn campus students gather between classes. Yet beyond just laptops, DVD's and books to check out, the library has a wealth of other resources available.

In addition to a wide range of research databases, there are magazines and educational journals that can be read within the library. If you happen to need a book that is at a local library or at other local campuses including Pratt Institute, LIU or Brooklyn College, the reference librarians can help you acquire it.

There are several library events that students might want to attend during common hour. Various workshops are offered throughout the semester in which students receive instruction from library staff. Upcoming sessions include NoodleTools and Annotated Bibliographies on October

25 and 27, Intro to Excel on November 8 and 15, and Intro to PowerPoint on November 10. If you want to relax and unwind, the library also offers a common hour de-stress session where you can knit and color. More details can be found on flyers posted throughout McEntegart.

Other collections that are available to students include the textbook reserves, local history collection, oversized art books and curriculum library. Located on the third floor, the curriculum library features children's picture books and young adult fiction. One of McEntegart's newest additions is a 3D printer that students can use for class assignments and projects. Meanwhile, issues of *The Spirit* dating back to 1982 are now available on-line (using advanced search in the online catalog, enter the keyword Spirit and limit your search to McEntegart archives). You'll find many gems, including a mysterious handwritten edition of the paper.

If you should ever need help, the library staff is available to assist you. Just walk up to the reference desk and ask a librarian for help (you can also schedule an appointment). In any event, the next time you are in McEntegart Library, be sure to take advantage of the resources available and remember to say hello to the wonderful library staff.

TRICK OR TWEET

BY DAVID SEPPALA-HOLTZMAN

Pirandello is prob'ly quite sore
With absurdity now in high season

Six characters suffice no more
Now it's one forty in search of a reason

CAMPUS NOTES

BY NANA SCOTT

The launch of clubs has everyone buzzing around campus. Which one to join? Or can I join all? New ones have formed while others have gone into hiatus.

The Hospitality & Tourism Club is a new addition this fall semester. At the same time, we must sadly say goodbye for the time being to the Fashion Club, Law & Justice Society, Music Performance Club, and the Students Joined Through Christ Club. However, students who are interested in music performance or religious activity can transfer over to the Chapel Players or join the Campus Ministry.

While more clubs are on the way, you can also start your own. First, fill out an application with Jaime Vacca's team in the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, Room 101 in Tuohy Hall. Please keep in mind that you will need a minimum of 10 people to submit the application as well as a faculty adviser. Your application will then be submitted to the SGA president, vice-president, and secretary, and from there it will be placed on the agenda of the next senate meeting, where you will be invited to attend and present the proposal.

Brendan Moloney, program director of the Campus Activities Board, says that over 500 students attended the Club Fair in September. According to Moloney, "this freshman class is more eager and excited to do more thing and participate in more on campus events than previous years." He adds that they are also "more lively," and I couldn't agree with him more. The increased membership in the clubs means more consistent attendance numbers at the meetings, a real improvement compared to last year.

See you at the club!

ANN PATCHETT SHARES COMMONWEALTH AT SJC

BY DANIELA CARDINALE

A wise mother once said, "None of it happened, and all of it's true."

In mid-September, SJC's Brooklyn campus hosted international best-selling author and independent bookseller Ann Patchett, who discussed *Commonwealth*, her latest novel. Held as part of SJC's ongoing "Brooklyn Voices" series in partnership with Greenlight Bookstore, the conversation was also featured as a Brooklyn Book Festival Bookend event.

Interviewed by her friend and fellow novelist Julie Courtney Sullivan, Patchett explained her creative process. She also touched upon the influences of her family and friends—as well as the fans she meets at her bookstore, Parnassus Books, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Commonwealth focuses on divorce and its impact on family unity, topics that Patchett described as part of her own experience. The novel unfolds around an unexpected romantic encounter at a christening party between two guests, Bert Cousins and protagonist Franny Keating's mother, Beverly. This encounter leads to changes between two families, affecting the lives of four parents and six children over



Photo by Daniela Cardinale

the course of fifty years.

Ultimately, the children are forced to come to terms with what has been lost, the pain and guilt felt, and the loyal bonds they have formed with the passing of time. As Patchett explained, "Divorce is the history lesson, that thing that must be remembered in order not to be repeated. Divorce is the rock upon which this church is built."

Throughout the evening, Patchett built a strong rapport with the more than 100 fans who came to see her. Hinting at her next novel, Patchett said, "I feel like next I can go back and continue to write the same kind of deeply hidden book in imaginative terms. Maybe I, having gone into the heart of it, excavated the story, and—maybe—something amazing will happen. Who knows?"

WINDOWS 10: THE NEXT FRONTIER

BY CHRISTOPHER VIQUEZ

Mac or Windows? Ultimately, preferences vary depending on the user. But even the most diehard Mac fans should check out the new Windows 10 update in the LITC lab of McEntegart Library.

The evolution of Windows operating systems has drastically changed for the better in 2016. Windows 10 has the classic feel of Windows 8 (the metro-styled launcher) but the start menu does not fill the screen. It has a closer feel to Windows 7, in terms of the taskbar and it has made navigating through files much easier, while bringing a mix between Windows 7 and Windows 8. Heck, why not call it Windows 9? You skipped a number, Microsoft!

Compared to other computers, 10's log-on time is incredibly fast. As a matter of fact, a friend of mine, Matthew Smith, logged onto a computer, which was a Windows 7, in MCE Room 303 while we had a computer class together. It took more than 40 minutes to load his profile compared to the average 30-45 seconds it normally takes to load a student profile on the Windows 7 machines scattered about campus. Windows 10 takes only a few seconds to load.

Overall, the performance of Windows 10 is impeccable. You can keep multiple tabs in a browser open, with multiple processes and applications running (which seems not to be an issue on the computer's RAM/CPU.) There is less clutter for optimized performance and unique style with customizable configurations. The LITC Lab has machines with Windows 10 Enterprise 2015 image, an Intel Core i5 CPU running at 3.20GHz, an installed memory of 8GB of RAM and a 64-bit Operating System. To simplify this geek talk, these computers are dedicated to heavy processing and little consumption of the memory.

So if you're thinking of experimenting with Windows 10 before purchasing and you are currently enrolled as a St. Joseph's student, then look no further than the LITC Lab. Here you can compare 10 to any other operating system you have ever used. Get ready to go Windows 10.

SITTING FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

BY S. SUSAN WILCOX

My Dearest St. Joseph's College Community:

I think we are at a time when our daily routines and rituals are opportunities for what our faculty call "teachable moments." I believe this is a teachable moment and this is why I sat during the national anthem at Honor's Convocation (October 6).

First, let me tell you the historical background that provokes this action. I am the daughter of Mary Ellen Oldham Wilcox. Also, great (x 4) granddaughter of Capt. John Oldham, veteran of the Revolutionary War. As a proud descendent of Patriots, I'm also a registered member of the Daughters of the Revolution, known as the DAR. My ancestor served under General Gates (as in Gates Avenue) at the Battle of Camden in South Carolina. When the soldier carrying the standard which is often a flag was shot, Capt. John picked it up and carried it on. He also served in the Battle of Yorktown and witnessed the conclusion of the American Revolution and the emerging democratic government.

I will continue to sit for the national anthem because this is my way of picking up the standard of our revolutionary ideals of equality and carrying them on. From income to education, to housing and access to opportunity, we are still waging a revolution for the ideal of equality. When San Francisco 49ers player Colin Kaepernick sat and then kneeled during the national anthem as a protest against racial inequality, he struck a resonant nerve for many Americans. We feel our patriotism but in terms of true equality for all, we are not there yet and this is why I join him in solidarity.

This is usually the part of a statement where statistics are inserted, but any person of color in the US does not need social research to know we are not yet a racially equal country. It's white people who need to argue the data, having been shielded by our privilege. It is my intent to use my privilege for this teachable moment. A moment which I believe is perfect for highlighting our school motto: *Esse Non Videri*, to be not to seem.

S. Susan Wilcox, CSJ is director of Campus Ministry at SJC.

TIME TO STAND UP

BY URWAH AHMAD

A "government of the people, by the people, for the people," does not seem to be anywhere in the vicinity. We watch from afar as the individuals we "elect" are chauffeured in bulletproof cars by the Secret Service, with their special passes and privileges. However, there is much more than a glass barrier separating us from them.

There is no "real" awareness regarding what is actually happening and in our name since these "elected leaders" are representative of us. All we actually see is an aesthetic illusion. A world created by others. We have come to accept the artificial, surveillance, exclusivity, and unaffordability of vital resources. Many live in a bubble where they see only their own rainbows. These bubbles are not hard to pop; it is just that many do not even try.

It is said that this is the land of opportunity. Yet there are many barely surviving, begging on the streets, manipulated, and in agony. They face injustice and discrimination. Countless are stuck in a cycle with a few rare ways of escaping — be it their lack of education and connections, or the inequity and biases society has created. Instead of true opportunities they are given scraps which only help to give some validity to the illusion. We need to become aware of the false pretenses.

There is nothing normal about what is happening in our country at the moment. Many want to laugh or scorn, however they will not stand up. They believe that tip-tapping away from their homes on social media will do the job.

When an incident occurs, in the aftermath there is "collateral damage." There is no list of names, only the "body count." These are words used to describe the death and suffering of human beings. We live in a world where there are immaculately dressed women with their children who wear Vans or Nike's. They have no awareness of the fact that those shoes or clothes could be made by a child the same age. This is not just an issue here it is a world problem because "we" the "people" choose to ignore and are manipulated by trends and reality television and our hazy rainbows.

The euphemisms are unending. It is not "war," it is "security," "global democracy," "liberation," and "freedom." There are people and nations forgotten when they do not yield the benefits. Our leaders do not see the desperation, pools of blood, scattered limbs, suicide notes, or even us. Whenever there is talk of peace, tolerance, and dialogue, there

is also talk of domination and benefits. There are so many players behind the scenes. It seems as if we are only pieces in an unending game of Monopoly.

People come for a day to "volunteer," acting as saviors — when it should be something we all do because it is the right thing to do. Why console ourselves by "helping" for one day or year, instead of actually comprehending what is going on. There is no need to show one's importance while shoving another into a dark alley.

It is essential to shed away the mindset that others will solve the problem. We must quit falling prey to the status quo. The normalization of the violence, killing, and manipulation needs to end. Why must any of us defend a system that appropriates equality and justice? Why does the shattered window of the privileged echo louder in the media's ear than the rounds fired at a destitute? The innocent are thrown in boxes as oppressors stand on pedestals. Our leaders and the media are not protecting public interest.

In case anyone missed the hint, whatever is happening in this country, and beyond (because the world is so "interconnected"), is not okay. We are human, imperfect, not omniscient, nor all-forgiving. But we can try; we need to believe that there is some good by being that good. We should not worry about being labeled and categorized and stop being apathetic. We should quit thinking about building walls and instead continue breaking barriers. We do not need to make America great again; instead we should aspire to make it admirable. We do not need a champion. We ourselves need to stand up for America and ourselves.

I am not talking about riots, or fighting, or violence. I am talking about all the "corny" stuff, communication, giving, sharing, and helping. I am also talking about transparency, investigating, asking, and asking again. Take one step or two, but take initiative and you will find you are not alone. Corruption is an issue, it is a crime, and we can do something. There is a lot hidden, but there is also a lot available, we do not need to be dependent on anyone. It will not be instantaneous or easy. However, it is not impossible, so let us start popping those bubbles and seeing real rainbows.

2016 ELECTION: HE LIED, SHE LIED

BY DANIELA CARDINALE

He lied, she lied, so why do we even compare?

On September 15th, the *New York Times* published an article revealing that the Donald J. Trump Foundation had sent a check for \$25,000 to the office of Attorney General Pam Biondi in Florida in September of 2013.

Two weeks before this check had been sent, a lawsuit had been filed by the attorney general of New York, Eric T. Schneiderman, against the Republican presidential candidate. This lawsuit alleged fraud in the marketing of Trump University's real estate and wealth-building seminars. A representative for Biondi's office later stated that it would not be investigating the complaints against Trump. Democrats in Congress pushed to investigate the charges and examine the \$375,000 he donated to state and federal candidates and political committees in Florida since 1995.

More recently, the *Washington Post* reported that Trump used \$258,000 from his charity to settle lawsuits for his businesses. One of these businesses, Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club, was being sued by the town of Palm Beach, Florida for \$120,000 in fees, but settled for \$100,000 if and only if Trump donated to a charity for veterans. Trump sent a check from his foundation, which violated laws against "self-dealing" as the Republican candidate used money from his nonprofit foundation towards a for-profit business.

In August, FBI investigators assigned into looking into the private server used by Hillary Clinton questioned the Democratic candidate about the emails she exchanged with other political figures. Clinton stated that former Secretary of State Colin Powell advised her to use her personal email. This was controversial for two reasons. One, Powell is a Republican, however the emails and "advice" indirectly expressed support for Clinton. Two, a hack of Powell's email account revealed that he regards Trump as a "national disgrace" and "international pariah." Although Powell has not commented about the information concerning these hacks, an aide verified with the *New York Times* that the information was true. It was later disclosed that Powell used a personal email as well, but did not have a private server at his home.

The media has played a major role in airing information concerning these scandals, including creating controversy as far as ethics concerning reporting political candidates go. Up until this past August, CNN commentator Corey Lewandowski was paid \$20,000 by Trump for "strategy consulting." Lewandowski's company, Green Monster Consulting, also received an additional \$20,000 from Trump in July. CNN, which is regarded as pro-Clinton, is associated with Time Warner, one of the largest contributors to Clinton's campaign. Both companies have a lot at stake in the outcome of this election, especially financially. Lewandowski received national attention for aggressively handling reporter Michelle Fields, as she attempted to pursue and question Trump after a press conference this past March.

Another journalist, Joe Conason, was the first to report the conversation between Powell and Clinton discussing using a private email and server at a dinner party held at the home of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Despite the fact that Lewandowski and Conason admit to having



financial gains to maintaining their ties to the political candidates, both failed to remain honest in their journalistic professions.

State and federal authorities have conducted investigations into Trump's transactions and Clinton's private email exchanges. Trump has used his businessman persona to exploit and manipulate others to advance himself economically and politically, paying his way out of the consequences using other people's money. On July 5, FBI Director James Comey announced that he would not pursue criminal charges against Clinton after submitting evidence concerning her email exchanges to Congress.

Although Clinton was aware that using a private server was against protocol, she continued to do so with encouragement from the opposition. This is very concerning as it shows that each candidate has been able to use their connections to remain in the race for the most powerful position in the government. As a law-abiding citizen who happens to be a student trying to focus on getting a degree so I can get a job to support myself, having to decide between two candidates who lie and cheat the public it is meant to serve discourages me from becoming more involved in politics. Time and time again, I have been reminded that all politicians lie, as if this is an attribute expected of a successful politician, or how I like to look them, a traveling salesman. Whatever miracle they are trying to sell me can't fix the damage done. Honestly, it's because of poor leadership and ignorance that the country is in the state it is in now.

However, both candidates reference the other's failures in order to make themselves come across as the better choice. How is settling for "bad" better than "worse"? Whatever happened to honesty? Should an individual elected not be a role model for us, a leader we can trust? At the end of the day, we should not get ahead because another person fell short. As citizens, we have the ability to vote and decide who should lead us, but when the choices we have are poor there is little for us to look forward to.

At this point, I am not sure whether voting will do any good. Whether Trump lied or Hillary did, at the end of the day, I refuse to take either side. On election day, we'll see where the majority of America stands.

AFTER A NEAR MISS/MISSILE DURING HURRICANE SANDY

BY DAVID SEPPALA-HOLTZMAN

I think that I shall never see
a missile lethal as a tree

Be it birch or be it pine,
Its impact seldom is benign



RE: SUBMISSIONS



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